Strategic research roadmap summary 2021–2024
Access

Goals
- Expand HEQCO's access research to address equity in participation and outcomes for postsecondary students in Ontario.
- Elevate the impact of HEQCO's work in access and retention.
- Build a data infrastructure to illustrate current access and equity challenges and identify promising solutions.
- Extend HEQCO's research on entry points for reskilling and lifelong learning.

Year 1
- Postsecondary preparation, access, retention and outcomes
  - Trends in enrolment, participation and retention
- Equity benchmarking data development
  - Equity benchmarking pilot projects
- Historic and ongoing PSE attainment disparities
  - Destreaming initiatives
  - Apprenticeships pathways and completion
- Evidence to inform reskilling, upskilling and lifelong learning
  - Microcredential landscape and definitions

Year 2
- Postsecondary preparation, access, retention and outcomes
  - COVID-19 impact on student outcomes
- Equity benchmarking data development
  - Equity benchmarking reporting
- Historic and ongoing PSE attainment disparities
  - Learning requirements and campus infrastructure for student success

Year 3
- Evidence to inform reskilling, upskilling and lifelong learning
  - Trends in participation and completion of alternative credentials
Quality

Goals
• Expand the impact of HEQCO’s work on learning outcomes.
• Further develop HEQCO’s understanding and evaluation of teaching and learning environments.
• Build a data infrastructure on the value of postsecondary education in Ontario, with a focus on skills and competencies.

Year 1
Transformations in digital learning
Skills gap: trends, evidence and impacts
Work integrated and experiential learning participation and outcomes
Performance and cost analysis for Canadian PSE

Year 2
Using learning outcomes to inform curriculum program design
Students’ skill articulation
Assessing students’ learning and skills outcomes

Year 3
Shifts in curriculum and pedagogy impacted by COVID-19
Transferable skill development in the digital environment
COVID-19 impact on skill development

Earnings premiums for PSE graduates
Value of Ontario credentials for graduates across programs and background characteristics
Earnings premiums for post-COVID-19 PSE graduates
Effects of employment disruptions on longer term PSE graduate outcomes
Sustainability and system design

Goals
• Explore and critically review the PSE policy context in Ontario to chart a path to the future.
• Promote differentiation as a means to support academic quality and return on investment.
• Review Ontario PSE institutions’ financial sustainability and cost structure.

Year 1
Institutional strategies for financial sustainability
- Internationalization
- Interinstitutional partnerships

Year 2
Differentiation in Ontario PSE
- Program development as a response to financial challenge
- Strategic Mandate Agreements and system differentiation

Year 3
Postsecondary costs and return on investment
- Economic impacts of PSE in Ontario
- Labour market and graduate outcomes associated with shifts in policy directions

Sustainability